

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

### Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

### Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus ~~in which on~~ having  $n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) photosensitive drums or belts ~~of  $n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) pieces corresponding to~~ respective colors ~~are formed on which~~ respective latent images are formed by irradiation of laser beams, comprising:

a semiconductor laser array ~~of which~~ having laser beam emitting points are arranged  $m$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) in the row direction thereof and  $n$  in the line direction thereof, as where  $n$  equals the same number of the photosensitive drums or belts;

a beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that  $m$  laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the semiconductor laser array scan ~~a~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt among thereof; and

a beam deflection means which deflects in common  $n$  laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line emitted from the semiconductor laser array and irradiates the same onto the respective photosensitive drums or belts;

wherein, the arrangement direction of  $m$  beam spots irradiated onto one of the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by an angle  $\alpha/2$  with respect to the main scanning direction.

2. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus ~~in which on~~ having  $n$  ( $n > 2$ ) photosensitive drums or belts of  ~~$n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) pieces~~ corresponding to respective colors ~~are formed on which~~ respective latent images are formed by irradiation of laser beams, comprising:

a first semiconductor laser array and a second semiconductor laser array, each of which has laser beam emitting points are arranged  $m$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) in the row direction thereof and  $n/2$  in the line direction thereof, ~~as the~~ where  $n/2$  is half the number of ~~the~~ photosensitive drums or belts;

a first beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that  $m$  laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the first semiconductor laser array scan ~~a~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt ~~among thereof~~;

a second beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that  $m$  laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the second semiconductor laser array scan ~~a~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt ~~among thereof~~; and

a beam deflection means which deflects at different faces thereof  $n$  laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line emitted from the first semiconductor laser array and the second semiconductor laser array, and irradiates the same onto the respective photosensitive drums or belts;

wherein, the arrangement direction of  $m$  beam spots irradiated onto one of the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by an angle  $\alpha/2$  with respect to the main

scanning direction.

3. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus ~~in which on~~ having  $n(n \geq 2)$  photosensitive drums or belts of  $n(n \geq 2)$  pieces corresponding to respective colors ~~are formed on which~~ respective latent images are formed by irradiation of laser beams, comprising:

a semiconductor laser array ~~of which having~~ laser beam emitting points are arranged  $m(m \geq 2)$  in the row direction thereof and  $n/2$  in the line direction thereof, ~~as the where  $n/2$  is half the~~ number of the photosensitive drums or belts;

a beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that  $m$  laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the semiconductor laser array scan ~~a the~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt ~~among thereof; and~~

a beam deflection means which deflects in common  $n/2$  laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line emitted from the semiconductor laser array and irradiates the same onto the respective photosensitive drums or belts;

wherein, the arrangement direction of  $m$  beam spots irradiated onto one of the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by an angle  $\alpha_2$  with respect to the main scanning direction.

4. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor laser array ~~being is~~ is inclined as a whole by an angle  $\alpha_1$ , so that the arrangement direction of  $m$  beam spots irradiated on the

photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle  $\alpha_2$  ( $\alpha_1=\alpha_2$ ) with respect to the main scanning direction.

5. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the semiconductor laser array ~~being~~is inclined as a whole by an angle  $\alpha_1$ , so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle  $\alpha_2$  ( $\alpha_1=\alpha_2$ ) with respect to the main scanning direction.

6. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the semiconductor laser array ~~being~~is inclined as a whole by an angle  $\alpha_1$ , so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle  $\alpha_2$  ( $\alpha_1=\alpha_2$ ) with respect to the main scanning direction.

7. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the alignment in the row direction of the light emitting points ~~being~~is inclined with respect to the alignment in the line direction by an angle  $(90^\circ - \alpha_3)$ , so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle  $\alpha_2$  ( $90^\circ - \alpha_3 = \alpha_2$ ) with respect to the main scanning direction.

8. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to

claim 2, wherein the alignment in the row direction of the light emitting points ~~being~~  
is inclined with respect to the alignment in the line direction by an angle  $(90^\circ - \alpha_3)$ , so  
that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive  
drums or belts is inclined by the angle  $\alpha_2$  ( $90^\circ - \alpha_3 = \alpha_2$ ) with respect to the main  
scanning direction.

9. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to  
claim 3, wherein the alignment in the row direction of the light emitting points ~~being~~  
is inclined with respect to the alignment in the line direction by an angle  $(90^\circ - \alpha_3)$ , so  
that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive  
drums or belts is inclined by the angle  $\alpha_2$  ( $90^\circ - \alpha_3 = \alpha_2$ ) with respect to the main  
scanning direction.